



**What did burning asphalt release into the air? Is it harmful?**


Based on air quality monitoring, the levels of emissions do not appear to have been harmful.  The refinery produces three different grades of asphalt, which generally have similar properties. Asphalt is a thick liquid refined from crude oil. Its most common use is to construct roads. It contains heavy petroleum compounds, sulfur, and trace metals such as iron, nickel, and vanadium.

The black smoke during the fire was caused by the asphalt burning and was a mixture of particulate and gases.



**What else was released into the air during the fire? Is it harmful?**

Based on air quality monitoring, the levels of emissions do not appear to have been harmful.  In addition to asphalt, the refinery produces gasoline and diesel. When gasoline and diesel burn, they produce carbon dioxide and water vapor, similar to when fuel combusts in a vehicle.

**What is in the foam used to put out the fire? Is it harmful?**

Firefighting foam is very important, in part because it can remove oxygen from the fire and prevent the release of vapors. As with many chemicals, the foam is potentially harmful if ingested. **The firefighting foam is being collected by booms in Newton Creek and vacuum trucks are removing the foam from the collection points.**  We are sampling Newton Creek at several locations between the facility and the mouth of the creek to determine whether additional steps need to be taken. *See the reverse for more information.*

**What if I inhaled smoke during the incident?**

The Douglas County Department of Health and Human Services can provide  the best information regarding smoke inhalation.  If you have an immediate health concern, please contact your health provider.

**Was Hydrogen Fluoride released?**

No. The first layer of protection in place, the fire suppression system, worked as it was designed to.


The tank was not compromised in the fire.

The hydrogen fluoride tank has multiple protection levels. These include a dedicated fire suppression system that douses the tank with a water curtain to keep it cooled.

The tank also has a pressure safety valve. If there is a fire next to the tank and pressure builds, the safety valve opens and the hydrogen fluoride flows into a neutralization tank and is rendered safe.

As well, any vapor from the tank goes into the flare, where it can be burned off. The flare was working throughout the incident on April 26.


**If it's safe, why are you still monitoring the air?**

As a precaution, we continue to monitor air quality, including potential fugitive emissions. Air monitoring results have consistently been within safe levels. Our focus is on the safety of the community. 


**Who is doing the air and water monitoring?**

Husky is monitoring air quality, as is the Environmental Protection Agency. The Douglas County Department of Health and Human Services is posting air quality results to its website. Husky and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources are testing water quality.

**Are there harmful substances inside my home?**

Particles in smoke are not easily transported inside buildings. The gases that may have been produced by the fire dissipate  naturally and would not remain inside a home.

**I am concerned about my immediate health, what should I do?**


Please contact your medical provider if you have any immediate concerns about your health. 

**Is it safe to touch and clean up any soot on my property?**


Douglas County Department of Health and Human Services has advised the following:

You are able to wash ash and soot with soap and **water as you would regularly for cleaning your house**. Remember, it is always important to protect yourself from chemicals and materials while cleaning so we recommend wearing gloves.

**What about outdoor plants and vegetables?**

If smoke from this fire settled on your yard or plants, it should have been removed by natural processes, that is the rain and snow that has fallen since April 26. Washing fruits and vegetables with water is sufficient to remove any particles from surfaces. 

**Do I need to clean inside my home or in my ducts?**

It is unlikely  that particles or gases made it into homes.


**Is it safe to mow the lawn?**

As noted above, if smoke from the fire settled on your yard, it should have been removed by natural processes. Mowing the lawn should not be a concern.

**Is it safe to play outside?**

The Douglas County Department of Health and Human Services has stated that the air quality is at safe levels. Smoke from the fire has cleared from the air, and has likely been removed from play surfaces by natural processes, such as rain or snow.

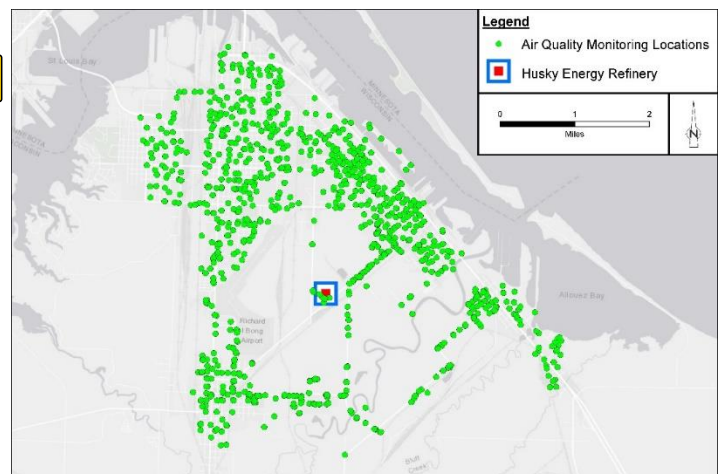
**Air Quality Monitoring**

**The Douglas County Department of Health and Human Services has stated that the air quality is at safe levels.** 

Husky, the Environmental Protection Agency and other agencies have been monitoring the air, since the fire began, and are sharing data with each other every 12 hours. The Douglas County Department of Health and Human Services will be posting the air monitoring data to its website.

Fixed monitors are located within, and around the

perimeter of, the refinery. Mobile monitoring is being conducted over a wide area throughout the City of Superior.

**Air Quality Monitoring Locations****Protecting Fish and Water Bodies**

The water used to fight the fire is being contained on site and is being sampled and tested. Treatment strategies are currently being evaluated, and we will be working with the relevant agencies to process this water. Booms are being used to help contain any potential runoff and prevent it from flowing out of the mouth of Newton Creek.

Husky, working closely with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), is testing water quality at several locations downstream of the refinery. We are testing for gasoline, diesel, oil, metals, sulfate, volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds, and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS are a component found in many things, including firefighting foam. It may have been present in some of the foam used to extinguish the fire. Once samples are collected they are sent to an independent third-party laboratory for analysis. Husky will share any necessary remediation plans with the community.

**Updates from Douglas County on the ongoing Emergency Response are available at**

<http://www.douglascountywi.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=520>

**Husky Energy will continue to monitor air and water quality. Cleanup efforts will begin once it is safe to do so.**

**We are committed to keeping our neighbors informed. Our focus is the safety of the community.**